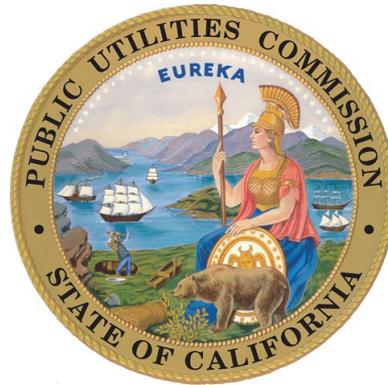




# Community Solar Program for Disadvantaged Communities



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***Fresno, CA***

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# Recent CPUC decisions to bring solar to disadvantaged communities

- In 2013, Assembly Bill 327 (Perea) directed the CPUC to develop specific alternatives designed to increase adoption of renewable generation in Disadvantaged Communities
- In Decision 17-12-022, the Commission adopted the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program, which provides one avenue for certain low-income customers to access clean solar electric generation, with a special provision to increase solar installation in DACs





# CPUC June 2018 decision (D.18-06-027)

On June 21, 2018, the CPUC adopted three new programs to promote solar services in disadvantaged communities:

- 1) Disadvantaged Communities – Single-Family Affordable Solar Homes Program (DAC-SASH)
- 2) Disadvantaged Communities - Green Tariff Program (DAC-GT)
- 3) Community Solar Green Tariff Program (CSGT)





## **Disadvantaged community - Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (DAC-SASH)**

The DAC-SASH Program:

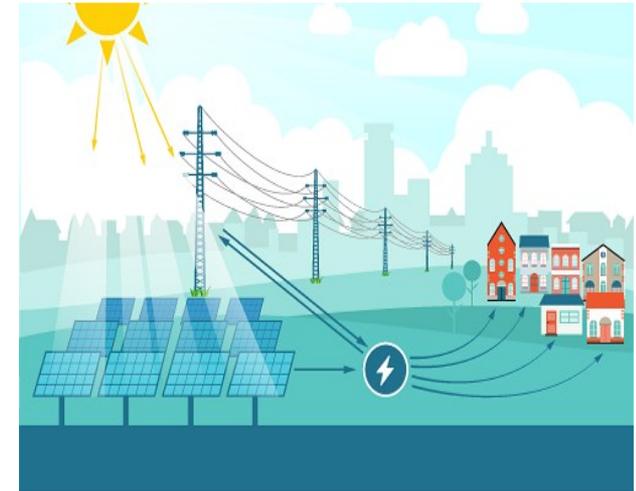
- Provides up-front incentives for installation of solar generating systems for low income resident-owners of single-family homes in disadvantaged communities.
- Incentives will assist in overcoming barriers to the installation of solar energy, such as a lack of up-front capital or credit needed to finance solar installation.
- \$10 million/year through 2030; up to 3.3 MW/year, and 800,000 households
- One administrator to be selected through an Energy Division competitive solicitation





# DAC--Green Tariff Program

- Low-income residents of DAC can subscribe to receive electricity generated from a solar facility in California
- Subscribers receive a 20% discount off their overall bill
- Customers need not own their home or install their own solar generation systems.
- Can serve up to 158 MW and 39,000 customers





# Community Solar Green Tariff

- Solar facility must be located in a top 25% DAC or San Joaquin Valley pilot community
- Open to residential customers in top 25% DACs within 5 miles of the solar facility
- At least 50% of subscribers must be low-income
- Subscribers receive 20% discount on their overall electric bill
- Can serve up to 41 MW and 6800 customers





## Community Solar Subscriber Requirements

- Utility provides CSGT rate to subscribers once 25% of the project's capacity is subscribed by low-income customers in the DAC
- Other (non-low-income) residential customers in the DAC may also sign up once 50% low-income threshold is met.
- Customers subscribe based on their recent consumption levels
- Overall subscription for each project is capped at the projected output of the project (including sponsor portion)





## Community Solar subscriber discount

- Residential subscribers receive 20% off of their overall electricity bill.
- CARE and FERA customers receive the 20% discount before the CARE/FERA discount
- Example:
  - Typical bill of \$100/month on normal rate
  - Bill will be \$80/month on Community Solar Rate
  - If also a CARE customer, bill will be \$80 minus 35% = \$51/month





# A Local Community Solar Sponsor is Required





## **A Local Community Solar Sponsor is Required**

- Sponsor must be a non-profit or local governmental entity
  - Can be a school
  - Can be a Community Choice Aggregator
- Sponsor must:
  - present a plan to the utility
  - Recommend a site
  - Show significant community intent to subscribe
- Sponsor may work with developer and utility
- Sponsor may receive ME&O funds





## Community Solar Sponsor incentive

- Sponsors can receive the CGST 20% discount on their electric bill
- Discount is capped at 25% of project output
- Any consumption above cap is at otherwise applicable rate
- Incentive lasts for the life of the project
- Incentive may be shared with another sponsor





## The developer must work with the community sponsor

- A developer must provide a letter of commitment from a sponsor that includes:
  - Demonstration of substantial interest of community members in subscribing to project;
  - Estimated number of subscribers, with justification to ensure project is sized to likely demand;
  - A preliminary plan to conduct outreach and recruit subscribers (which may be conducted in conjunction with the developer and/or the utility); and
  - Siting preferences, including community-suggested host sites, and verification that the site chosen for the bid is consistent with community preference.





## The Project sells power through the utility

- Proposed facility bids into a twice-yearly utility RFO
- Projects located in top 5% DACs or San Joaquin Valley pilot communities would be prioritized
- Facility signs a power purchase contract with the utility, subject to cost caps
- Cost Containment:
  - Bids must be at or below 200% of the maximum executed contract price in either the RAM's as-available peaking category or the Green Tariff program,
- Any unsubscribed capacity is taken by the utility





## Permission to operate

- Before a Community Solar Green Tariff project can operate, it must receive Permission to Operate from the utility consistent with the GTSR program.
- Permission to Operate is determined by the utility as part of the applicable interconnection process
- 25% of project capacity must be subscribed by eligible low-income residents prior to Permission to Operate.





## Workforce development requirements

- Project bidders must include workforce development requirements in any bid into the RFO, including local hiring and targeted hiring,
- As part of their RFO process, utilities are to prioritize job training and workforce development factors.
- Sponsors should ensure that their efforts include job training and workforce development efforts to benefit the local communities which would benefit from the projects.





## Where to get more information

- CPUC Decision 18-06-027:  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&DocID=216789285>
- CPUC Press Release:  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M216/K742/216742158.PDF>
- Contact: Nora Hawkins (CPUC Energy Division) 415-703-3306





# What is the CPUC?

Mission: The California Public Utilities Commission (commonly referred to as CPUC) regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services.

Regulates telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water, railroad and some transportation companies

State agency headquartered in San Francisco, offices in Los Angeles and Sacramento

